



# SETTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

## Sixty-first Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1940.

*To the Chairman and Members of the District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of your District for the year ending 31st December, 1940.

The Report is an "Ordinary Report" drawn up on the lines suggested in the Ministry of Health Circular 1961, and, in accordance with the economy cuts recommended by the Central Authority and local Councils, repetition is avoided by references to information given in the previous reports.

### A.—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

#### 1.—PHYSICAL FEATURES.

Settle Rural District is a quadrilateral 15 by 20 miles in extent, bounded on the north by Sedbergh, east by Skipton Rural, south by Bowland Rural, and west by Lancashire. It covers an area of 152,082 acres, or over 237 square miles, and contains 30 parishes.

#### 2.—SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND EMPLOYMENT.

The chief industry of the district is agriculture, in the form of breeding cattle and sheep and the production of milk and butter. At some of the villages, e.g., Bentham (cotton and silk mills, hose and belting works), Ingleton (quarries), Settle (cotton mills), Hellifield (railway centre), Horton (quarries), etc., other forms of employment can be obtained.

#### 3.—GENERAL DETAILS OF THE DISTRICT.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	152,082
Population (1921 census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,373
Population (1931 census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,746
Population (1940 estimated)	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,170
Inhabited house (1940 estimated)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,210
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£66,742
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£269

## VITAL STATISTICS.

## (a) BIRTHS.

The Births registered as occurring in, or belonging to, the district were 207.

Legitimate	...	...	91 males and 108 females.
Illegitimate	...	...	4 males and 4 females.

Birth-rate on an estimated population of 14,170 is equivalent to 14·6 per 1,000, compared with 13·7, 13·5 and 14·3 in the previous three years, with 12·4 for the Craven Combined District, and with 14·6 for England and Wales.

## (b) DEATHS.

The deaths after correction by the inward transfer of residents dying outside the district, and the outward transfer of non-residents dying inside the district numbered 94 males and 103 females—a total of 197.

The death-rate is thus 13·8, compared with 14·4, 13·3 and 12·8 in the previous three years, with 14·3 for the Craven Combined Districts, and 14·3 for England and Wales.

## (c) INFANT MORTALITY.

The infant deaths as corrected by the Registrar-General were 3 males and 2 females—all legitimate.

The infant mortality was, therefore, 29 per 1,000 children born, compared with 57, 26 and 28 in the previous three years, with 51 for the Craven District, and with 55 for England and Wales.

## (d) STILL BIRTHS.

The still births registered were 7. The percentage of still births to total births (alive and still-born) 3·2, compared with 3·8 in Craven Urban and 4·9 in Craven Rural Districts.

## (e) MATERNAL DEATHS.

Number of maternal deaths from puerperal causes, 1.

Maternal death-rate per 1,000 births 4·6, compared with 3·9 for Craven Combined District and 2·1 for England and Wales.

## ZYMOTIC DEATHS.

The seven principal Zymotic Diseases, namely, Small Pox, Measles, Whooping Cough, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever and Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) were responsible for 0 deaths.

Zymotic Death-rate : ·00, compared with ·07, ·21 and ·35 in the previous three years, and with ·05 in the Craven Combined District.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death in Settle Rural District, 1940.					M.	F.
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	94	103
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	—	—
2	Measles	...	...	...	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—
6	Influenza	...	...	...	1	1
7	Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	—	—
8	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	—	—
9	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	4	1
10	Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	2	4
11	Syphilis	...	...	...	—	1
12	General paralysis of insane, tabes dorsalis	...	...	...	—	—
13	Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	9	14
14	Diabetes	...	...	...	—	—
15	Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	...	10	11
16	Heart disease	...	...	...	25	22
17	Aneurysm	...	...	...	—	—
18	Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	10	12
19	Bronchitis	...	...	...	3	1
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	4	2
21	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	1	1
22	Peptic ulcer	...	...	...	2	—
23	Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	—	—
24	Appendicitis	...	...	...	—	1
25	Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	—	—
26	Other diseases of liver	...	...	...	—	—
27	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	3	2
28	Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	4	6
29	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	—	1
30	Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	—	—
31	Congenital debility, premature birth, &c.	...	...	...	1	1
32	Suicide	...	...	...	—	—
33	Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	3	2
34	Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	5	5
35	Other defined diseases	...	...	...	7	15
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above):						
	Small-Pox	...	...	...	—	—
	Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—
	Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	—	—

To the total death-rate of 13·8

Infectious Diseases contributed	·00
Tuberculosis	·78
Cancer	1·62
Heart Disease	4·86
Respiratory Diseases	·84
Apoplexy	1·57
Premature Birth, &c.	·14
Other Diseases	4·0

The general death-rate is average, infant mortality very low, and maternal mortality high. All same as in 1939.



## B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

### 1.—PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health : Wm. Scatterty, M.A., M.D., C.M., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Sanitary Surveyor : Frank Foxcroft.

Second Sanitary Inspector : N. Firth.

Third Sanitary Inspector : H. Cockshutt.

## C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

### 1.—WATER SUPPLIES.

In such a large area the supplies are many and varied. For instance, Settle and the larger villages—Giggleswick, Ingleton, Bentham, Austwick, Hellifield, etc., have public supplies provided by the Council. Other places, e.g., Long Preston and Burton-in-Lonsdale, are supplied by private companies. Clapham, Arncliffe, Malham, Rathmell, etc., are provided by the principal property owners. Hamlets such as Hanlith, Halton West, Litton and Foxup have water piped into the houses.

Shortage of supply was experienced at Westhouse. In connection with this supply, no further progress has been made towards obtaining an alternative supply, but this will have to receive attention as soon as can be.

HELWITH BRIDGE.—No further progress has been made towards the securing of a new supply here. Further gaugings of the spring which it is suggested should be acquired show that it is to be relied upon in a dry time.

Generally, chemical analysis of the water supplies proved satisfactory. Where bacteriological examination showed the presence of faecal organisms (*Bacillus Coli*) the water was reported unsatisfactory. It does not follow that the sample was unfit for human consumption, but it does suggest that investigation and supervision are necessary.

Without going into detail, it may be noted that the supplies for townships such as Settle and Giggleswick have been more satisfactory than those for outlying places like Horton-in-Ribblesdale, Ingleton and Austwick.

A natural inference is that the *Bacillus Coli* upon which the unsatisfactory report rests must be of animal not of human origin and that the analyses were not so serious as at first appears, seeing that *Bacillus Coli* of animal origin do not induce specific or communicable disease in human beings. Further, water with a high bacterial count is no more likely to be contaminated by a human Typhoid Carrier than a water with a low bacterial count.

Again, moorland waters contain much organic matter in which bacteria rapidly multiply, and moorland gathering grounds are most readily contaminated with *Bacillus Coli* from wild fowl and sheep.

Still, facts must be faced rather than risks incurred, and the recommendations of the Ministry of Health that all waters supplied to populations exceeding 1,000 consumers must be chlorinated will impose considerable expenditure on local authorities and water companies in the near future.

### 2.—SEWERAGE, DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The following notes by your Inspector are of interest :—

“No change of great importance has taken place under this head during the year.

HORTON-IN-RIBBLESDALE.—This scheme stands in abeyance pending satisfactory negotiations as to the acquisition of land for Disposal Works.

INGLETON.—A problem has arisen there through the fracture of the main outfall sewer laid through “The Springs.” The erosion of the river bed and banks, together with ground water, caused a length of the sewer to collapse. The solution of the problem will entail some considerable expense.

### 3.—CLOSET ACCOMMODATION, SCAVENGING, &c.

#### (a) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Where water and sewers are available the antiquated privy midden is slowly being superseded by the water closet.

The following table shows the number of closets of each type in the district at the end of the year :

Privies with fixed receptacles	...	...	...	1,021
Privies with moveable receptacles	...	...	...	35
Fresh-water closets (cistern)	...	...	...	1,987
Waste-water closets	...	...	...	66
Hand-flushed closets	...	...	...	44

During the past five years the number of privies with fixed receptacles converted to fresh-water closets was 7, 19, 6, 4 and 4.

#### (b) SCAVENGING.

At Settle, Giggleswick and Langcliffe the scavenging is undertaken by the Council, and satisfactorily carried out with its own staff.

At Bentham, Ingleton and Austwick the work is carried out by contract. In the remainder of the district scavenging is not undertaken. The growth of some of the larger townships will require further provision to be made in the future.

SALVAGE.—With the official direction to local authorities to undertake the salvage of waste materials, an organised collection of waste paper, bones and rags was instituted, a baling press for paper purchased, and with the co-operation of the Highways Department the materials named are collected and brought to a central store which has been rented in Settle, where it is baled. The collection of scrap metal is dealt with through the Ministry of Supply's own village dump scheme.

Up to the end of the year the following salvaged materials had been disposed of:

			£	s.	d.
39 tons 19 cwt. 3 qrs. of waste paper, value...	...	...	159	3	8
2 tons 11 cwt. 3 qrs. of Bones, value	...	...	7	15	3
Rags and metal, value	...	...	10	12	0
			<hr/>		
			£177 10 11		
			<hr/>		

#### (c) REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The Council have provided tips for the Townships of Settle, Giggleswick and Langcliffe, Hellifield, Long Preston, Burton-in-Lonsdale, Bentham, Ingleton, Thornton-in-Lonsdale, part of Clapham-cum-Newby, Austwick, Burton-in-Lonsdale, Litton, Malham and Wigglesworth.

Controlled tipping is not yet in operation in the district.

RAT DESTRUCTION.—The payment of three-halfpence for all rat tails delivered to the Sanitary Inspector's office was continued during the year, and up to the end of the year 2,124 tails had been brought in."

## 4.—SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Inspector's Report of Sanitary Work, etc., completed during the year ending December 31st, 1940 :

"Number of new houses occupied during the year	...	...	8
Number of visits, inspections, etc., made during the year in connection with :			
Nuisances	...	...	30
Scavenging	...	...	20
Slaughter Houses	...	...	238
Factories and Workshops	...	...	5
Infectious Disease	...	...	67
Tents, Vans, etc.	...	...	2
Housing	...	...	37
Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	55
Drainage	...	...	10
Water Supplies	...	...	11
Other Matters	...	...	8
		—	483
Samples of water collected for analysis (Chemical 2, Bacteriological 2)	...	...	4
House drains repaired, cleansed, etc.	...	...	7
Privies and W.C.'s repaired, cleansed, etc.	...	...	2
Water closets provided to existing premises	...	...	5
Privies abolished	...	...	10
New drains provided for existing premises	...	...	1
Number of informal notices given during the year	...	...	29
Number of informal notices complied with during the year...			8
Number of statutory notices served during the year	...		—
Number of statutory notices complied with during the year			—

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.—No action has been necessary in this district under this head.

EVACUATION.—This war-time necessity has necessitated a vast amount of extra work. Much time has been taken up in dealing with it, along with the Clerk as Chief Billeting Officer, and Mr. Kay (Rating Officer). Two parties of official evacuees from London were received during the year. Mount Pleasant, Langcliffe, was established as a Hostel for difficult children under the scheme."

## D.—HOUSING.

Housing work has considerably declined during the year. Still, eight new houses were occupied and reconditioning of others carried out where found necessary. Although the influx of evacuees from London brought worry and often confusion, overcrowding was negligible.

## E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

## (a) MILK, DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

There are 610 persons registered as engaged in milk and butter production.

Co-operation with the Public Health Department of the West Riding County Council was continued and inspections of farms under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders have been made.

At the end of the year 8 producers were holding licences granted by the West Riding County Council for the production of "Tuberculin Tested" milk and 42 others for the production of "Accredited" milk, while in 4 other cases the granting of licences was under consideration.



## (b) MEAT—SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

As stated in the last Report, the arrangements for the slaughtering of animals for human consumption were changed, as a war measure, and the Ministry of Food took over control and provided a central slaughterhouse in Settle for the whole of the Settle Rural district.

During the year 5,204 carcasses were inspected, and the table below shows the number of carcasses inspected, with particulars of carcasses or parts thereof condemned.

	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number inspected ... ..	753	37	4027	387
All Diseases except Tuberculosis :				
Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	21	6	47	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	83	1	103	9
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ... ..	13·8	18·9	3·7	2·6
Tuberculosis only :				
Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	12	2	—	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	71	—	—	17
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	11·02	5·4	—	4·9

Total weight condemned: 10 tons 18 cwts,

F. FOXCROFT, Senior Sanitary Inspector.

N. FIRTH  
H. COCKSHUTT } Inspectors.

## F.—PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

## (a) NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

The following cases were reported by the Education Authority, etc. :

Measles	...	...	...	...	125 cases
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	6 „
Chicken Pox...	...	...	...	...	12 „

(b) NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

					Cases notified and otherwise ascertained.	Admitted to Hospital.
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	33	35
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	2	3
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	4	5
Puerperal Pyrexia and Paratyphoid				...	2	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	3	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	4	—
Suspected Anthrax	...	...	...	...	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	3	1

Death-rate from Infectious Disease .00, compared with .07, .00 and .00 in the previous three years, and with .05 for Craven Combined District.

(c) TUBERCULOSIS.

In accordance with the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1912, a register is kept, the patients' homes are visited and advice given as to the precautions to be adopted in regard to ventilation, sleeping accommodation, indiscriminate spitting, cleanliness and above all, to the risk of infection from dried sputum. Disinfection of infected rooms is carried out on removal or death, and on the return of patients from Sanatorium or Hospital, the house is again visited to see that so far as possible treatment is continued at home.

Cases notified :

Pulmonary : 8 males (age 42, 56, 39, 57, 28, 40, 29, 52) ; 4 females (age 24, 25, 25, 31).

Non-pulmonary : 2 males (age 1½, 10 months) ; 1 female (5).

Mortality :

Pulmonary : 6 males (19, 31, 33, 49, 56, 64) ; 2 females (age 25, 70).

Non-pulmonary : 1 male (1½) ; 0 female.

Death-rate from Tuberculosis (Registrar-General) : .78, compared with .6, .4 and .5 in the previous three years.

Cases on register at end of year : Pulmonary : 17 males, 13 females.

Non-pulmonary : 9 males, 10 females.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS (P.H. Act, 1936, Section 176).

Apart from provision by the County Council of hospital treatment for Ophthalmia Neonatorum, welfare centres, school clinics and the systematic examination of school-children, no action has been taken by the Council.

CANCER DEATHS.

Sites involved :

Mouth, gullet, uterus	...	...	...	1 male, 3 females.
Stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	3 males, 2 females.
Breast	...	...	...	0 females.
Other sites	...	...	...	5 males, 9 females.

Mortality from malignant disease : 1.61.



## BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Pathological specimens examined : Sputum for T.B. 25, swabs for Diphtheria 28, blood and fæces for Enteric Fever 12, miscellaneous 14 ; total, 79.

I would here beg to express my indebtedness to Mr. Foxcroft, Sanitary Inspector, for much valuable assistance in carrying on the sanitary administration of the district and for many details of work done by his department during the past year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

WILL SCATTERTY, M.A., M.D., C.M., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

Keighley,

August, 1941.

COMPARATIVE TABLE.

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, ETC., IN 1940.

	England and Wales.	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	Craven Combined District.
	Rates per 1,000 Population.			
BIRTHS :				
Live ... ..	14·6	16·0	15·7	12·4
Still ... ..	0·55	0·64	0·55	0·55
DEATHS :				
All Causes ... ..	14·3	15·8	12·8	14·3
Typhoid and Paratyphoid				
Fevers ... ..	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Smallpox ... ..	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Measles ... ..	0·02	0·02	0·02	0·01
Scarlet Fever ... ..	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Whooping Cough ... ..	0·02	0·02	0·02	0·01
Diphtheria ... ..	0·06	0·01	0·05	0·00
Influenza ... ..	0·32	0·29	0·30	0·08
NOTIFICATIONS :				
Smallpox ... ..	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1·63	1·53	1·57	1·48
Diphtheria ... ..	1·16	1·29	1·21	0·28
Enteric Fever ... ..	0·07	0·06	0·10	0·08
Erysipelas ... ..	0·33	0·36	0·30	0·30
Pneumonia ... ..	1·20	1·37	1·00	0·28
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.			
Deaths under 1 year of age ...	55	61	54	51
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age.	4·6	5·9	4·4	0·01
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still).			
MATERNAL MORTALITY :				
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	0·52	} Not available		1·3
Others ... ..	1·64			2·6
Total ... ..	2·16			3·9
NOTIFICATIONS :				
Puerperal Fever ... ..	11·9	13·9	9·7	3·9
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..				





Settle  
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KEIGHLEY, August, 1941.